

2.3.3 Generalized Land Ownership

The entire study area consists of approximately 22.9 percent private land, 17.1 percent State Trust Land, 21.5 percent Tribal land, and 38.4 percent federal land. Figures 2-23, 2-24, and 2-25 show the land ownership pattern within each Focus Area. The Mogollon Rim Focus Area encompasses about 7,431,635 million acres, extending through the southern portions of Navajo and Apache counties and the eastern portion of Gila County. The Copper Country Focus Area encompasses about 5,743,386 million acres, consisting mostly of tribal and Forest Service lands. The Cochise-Santa Cruz Focus Area encompasses approximately 4,745,183 million acres.

Mogollon Rim Focus Area

The Mogollon Rim Focus Area extends through portions of Navajo, Apache, and Gila counties. Navajo County, Snowflake, Taylor, Show Low, Payson, and Pinetop/Lakeside are the incorporated communities are within this focus area, and Heber, Overgaard, Clay Springs, Shumway, Linden, Cedar Hills, White Mountain Lake, and Woodruff are the unincorporated communities. Incorporated jurisdictions within Apache County include Eager, St. Johns, and Springerville; unincorporated places include Greer Alpine, Fort Apache, and White River. Portions of the Navajo Nation and White Mountain Apache reservations overlay the county boundaries.

The White Mountain Apache Tribe's 1.6 million-acre ancestral homeland—the Fort Apache Indian Reservation—is located within this focus area. Over 12,000 members of the tribe live in nine major communities within the reservation's boundaries. Whiteriver, the capital, is the largest community, with over 2,500 residents. Other communities include Cibique and MacNarry. The Navajo Nation Reservation extends into the northeastern portion of the study area, following the US 191 and SR 61 corridors. A large portion of the land within the Focus Area is managed by the U.S. Forest Service. The Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest represents the dominant land use, which forms a band extending west to east along the Mogollon Rim.

Copper Country Focus Area

The Copper Country Focus Area includes all of Graham County and bisects Gila County, while extending through portions of eastern Pinal County, western Greenlee County, Navajo, and Apache counties. The following incorporated communities are within Graham County: Pima, Thatcher, Safford, and Duncan. Incorporated jurisdictions within Greenlee County include Clifton.

A large portion of the land within this Focus Area is tribal lands. The San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation spans Gila, Graham, and Pinal Counties in southeastern Arizona. The reservation encompasses approximately 1.8 million acres, with over one-third of the area characterized as either forested (175,000 acres) or wooded (665,000 acres). The San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation is located east and south of the study area highways. Primary access to the reservation is via US 70 outside the study area. Only short sections of US 60 are within the reservation. Portions of the Focus Area that are located within Apache and Greenlee counties are managed by the U.S. Forest Service.

Cochise-Santa Cruz Focus Area

The Cochise-Santa Cruz Focus Area is comprised of Cochise and Santa Cruz counties. Private lands and State Trust Lands dominate the focus area, which also includes the Fort Huachuca U.S. Army Installation, owned by the U.S. Armed Forces. Incorporated communities within Cochise County are: Wilcox, Tombstone, Benson, Huachuca City, Sierra Vista, and Bisbee. Patagonia and Nogales are two incorporated communities in Santa Cruz County.

Some of the larger communities within the study area include:

- City of Show Low: near the SR 61 / SR 77 junction
- City of St. Johns: located at the junction of SR 61 and US 191
- Town of Eager: adjacent SR 260
- Town of Pinetop-Lakeside: adjacent to SR 260
- Town of Snowflake: located at the junction of SR 77 and SR 277
- Town of Springerville: adjacent to US 60
- Town of Taylor: adjacent to SR 77
- Town of Pima; near SR 70
- Town of Thatcher; near SR 70
- City of Safford; near SR 70
- Town of Clifton; near SR 75
- Town of Duncan; near SR 75
- City of Benson; adjacent to I-10
- City of Wilcox; adjacent to SR 186
- City of Douglas; adjacent to SR 80
- City of Bisbee; adjacent to SR 80
- Town of Tombstone; adjacent to SR 80
- Town of Huachuca City; adjacent to SR 90
- City of Sierra Vista; adjacent to SR 90
- Town of Patagonia; adjacent to SR 82
- City of Nogales; adjacent to SR 82

2.3.4 Public Land Management Studies

Arizona totals nearly 114,000 square miles, or about 73 million acres. Approximately one third of the state is public land managed by the federal government. The majority of this public land is managed by two agencies, the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service. Military reservations managed by the Department of Defense (DOD) constitute the majority of the remaining federally managed lands. Federally managed public lands also include National Parks and Monuments managed by the National Park Service (NPS), National Wildlife Refuges managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS),